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Illinois Domestic Violence Act



ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

FINALLY...

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relief for victims
of the hidden crime



Families are filled with love,
we like to think.

Families are places we grow up
strong and safe and healthy,
we're taught to believe.

Families are said to be the sound
foundation upon which our
society is built.

But in Illinois this year, violence will erupt in thousands of families.

- One-half of all wives are likely to be abused at some time in their married lives.
 - Chicago police receive more calls to help resolve family violence than calls for all other serious crimes — murder, rape, aggravated assault — **combined**.
- Abuse can be lethal...
 - One third of women who are murdered die at the hands of their husbands or lovers.
- Abuse is self-perpetuating...
 - 80 percent of the men in America's prisons were abused as children.
- Children and the elderly also suffer...
 - In Illinois alone, 35,000 children and 20,000 elderly people will be abused or neglected by their families this year.

It's a sad truth that we are more likely to be injured or killed by someone we know and love than by a stranger.

When a child is beaten...

When an elderly parent is terrorized...

When a wife or lover is battered...

It's not only a shame. It's criminal assault.

Illinois now has a strong, new Domestic Violence Act which unites our communities, our courts and our law enforcement agencies to protect families from the violence in our homes.

"The people of Illinois can now seek protection under a law that recognizes domestic violence as a serious crime... Those abused by those they live with now have a system of legal rights to turn to. It's about time."

— James R. Thompson, Governor of Illinois



Illinois now has a strong Domestic Violence Act.

You have a **right** to be safe.

The new Illinois Domestic Violence Act:

- Clearly recognizes that beating another family member is a **crime** which will no longer be tolerated and Ignored.
- Protects families from further abuse...
 - Police undoubtedly have the authority to arrest anyone who hits or seriously threatens another family or household member.
 - A judge can now Issue an **Order of Protection** forbidding the violent party from continuing the abuse and temporarily barring him from the house.
 - Violation of these judicial orders is now in Itself a crime and can lead to arrest.
- Assists the victim...
 - Law enforcement officers must now use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including arranging to take the victim to a safe shelter or a medical facility if necessary, or accompanying the victim back to the house to pick up belongings.

- Victims must be informed in writing of their rights under the law, including the right to press criminal charges.
- Legal remedies are easier to obtain: An Order of Protection can be gotten in criminal court or in civil court, either by itself or as part of divorce proceedings. In emergencies, procedures can be expedited and court fees waived for those without funds.
- Legal remedies are more effective: In addition to protecting the victim from abuse, an Order of Protection can require the offender to pay medical expenses, legal costs and support.
- The victim need no longer fear being charged with desertion for fleeing the house in self-defense, and can be awarded temporary custody of the children.
- Provides treatment for abusers...
 - Jail is not the only, or even a very likely, outcome if the abuser is arrested.
 - The Order of Protection can require the violator to be counseled, which can teach appropriate responses to anger and frustration. Since violence is a learned behavior, it can be **unlearned**.
 - Treatment can make possible a peaceful and loving family life for the abuser as well as for the victim and children.
- Prevents violence today...and in generations to come...
 - Children learn to be violent by seeing violence, and they may come to accept it as part not only of family life but of life in the larger community as well.
 - Through intervention **now** to stop violence within the home, children can learn that violence will not be tolerated by either the victim or the community, and that there are acceptable ways to deal with conflict. Thus the cycle of violence can be shattered and future generations spared its pain.
 - Children can learn that families **do** mean love.



What You Can Do . . .

- ... to help yourself
- ... to help a friend
- ... to help anybody
threatened by
domestic violence

- **You Can...** call the domestic violence program in your area for information, or just to talk.
- **You Can...** be aware of your rights under the law if you have to have police assistance or need an Order of Protection.
- **You Can...** seek an Order of Protection on behalf of yourself, a minor child or an incapacitated adult.
- **You Can...** give this booklet to anyone who may need to know about the Illinois Domestic Violence Act.



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For more information

about the strong, new Illinois Domestic Violence Act...
or about how you can help stop domestic abuse today,
tomorrow and for generations to come... write or call:

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

931 South Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
217/789-2830



ALTON

Oasis Women's Center
618/465-1978

AURORA

Mutual Ground
312/898-4490

BELLEVILLE

Call for Help — The BRIDGE
618/235-0892

BLOOMINGTON

YWCA of McLean County —
Countering Domestic and
Sexual Violence
800/322-5015
309/827-4005

CAIRO

Community Health Services —
Cairo Women's Shelter
618/734-HELP

CANTON

Fulton County Women's
Crisis Service
309/647-2466

CARBONDALE

Women's Center
618/529-2324

CENTRALIA

Call For Help/Women In Need
618/533-SAFE

CHARLESTON

Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
217/345-4300

CHICAGO

Chicago Abused Women
Coalition
312/278-4566

Chicago Department of
Human Services
312/744-8418

Family Rescue
312/375-8400

Loop YWCA — Women's
Services
312/372-6600 (office)

Mujeres Latinas En Accion
312/226-1544

Southwest Women Working
Together
312/436-7678

Travelers Aid Society

312/435-4500 (day)
312/686-7562 (night/weekend)

Uptown Center Hull House — Family Violence Task Force

312/561-3500 (day)
312/769-0205 (night/weekend)

CLAY CITY

Stopping Woman Abuse Now
618/676-1911

DANVILLE

A Woman's Alternative
Shelter
217/443-5566

DECATUR

DOVE Domestic Violence
Project
217/423-2238

DE KALB

Safe Passage
815/756-2228

DES PLAINES

Life Span
312/824-4454

ELGIN

Community Crisis Center
312/697-2380

EVANSTON

Evanston YWCA
312/864-8780

FREEPORT

YWCA of Freeport
815/235-9421 (day)
815/233-HELP (night/weekend)

GLEN ELLYN

Family Shelter Service
312/469-5650

JOLIET

Guardian Angel Home
815/722-3344

Joliet-Will County Community
Action Agency
815/727-8912 (office)

KANKAKEE

Kankakee County Coalition
Against Domestic Violence
815/932-5800

OAK PARK

Sarah's Inn
312/386-4225

PEORIA

Tri-County WomenStrength
309/674-4443

PRINCETON

Quad Counties Counseling
Center
815/875-4458 (day)
815/875-2811 (night/weekend)

QUINCY

Quincy Area Network Against
Domestic Abuse
217/222-2873

ROCHELLE

HOPE of Rochelle
815/562-8890 (referrals)

ROCKFORD

WAVE/PHASE
815/962-6102

ROSICLARE

Anna Bixby Women's Center
618/285-6629

SOUTH HOLLAND

South Suburban Family
Shelter
312/596-9066

SPRINGFIELD

Sojourn Women's Center
217/544-2484

STERLING

Sterling-Rock Falls YWCA —
COVE
815/626-7277

STREATOR

Against Domestic Violence
800/892-3375

SUMMIT

Des Plaines Valley
Community Center
312/485-5254

URBANA

A Woman's Place
217/384-4390

WAUKEGAN

A Safe Place
312/249-4450

WOODSTOCK

Turning Point
815/338-8080

WORTH

Crisis Center for South
Suburbia
312/974-1791

Unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers listed
are 24-hour crisis lines.